

GovDelivery Messages to Aid Administrators

March 5, 2019

We are sending this email to clarify some questions from the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association (MSFAA) Winter Conference.

Residency

Due to a recent internal audit, Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) must take additional steps to verify Michigan residency, but will only contact the institution if further information is needed.

Awarded Students Enrolled in at Least Six Credits who are Later Reduced to Less than Six Credits

If there is a cost to the institution, then funds do not need to be returned to SSG. As referenced on pages 23 and 24 of the [2018-2019 State Procedures Program Manual](#):

Page 23:

MCS and MTG - If a student withdraws at 100%, all program funds should be returned by reducing the award amount in MiSSG to \$0 with a Refund Adjustment in the student's Payment History if the student's award was already paid. However, after the drop/add period, institutions may decide to instead keep the award money to offset costs incurred by the student.

Page 24:

CVTG, FFS, GEAR UP, TIP - If a student is enrolled (at least half-time) during drop/add period, but never attends class(es), the institution is entitled to keep funds for costs incurred.

Courses/credits Outside of Program of Study

Without exception, all credits included in a TIP reimbursement request must be for degree completion requirements. However, for our other programs, general education courses/credits may be used for awarding if the student needs these credits for enrollment purposes.

February 12, 2019

Institutions have access to certify awards and request reimbursements for the following terms/semesters:

- Fall 2018
- Winter 2019
- Spring 2019

To be included in the 2nd Quarter payments, awards must be certified and reimbursements requested successfully by the deadline of **5:00 p.m. February 22, 2019**.

The following State aid programs are available in MiSSG and each should be evaluated for student eligibility and payment:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant

- Tuition Incentive Program

As a reminder, during the certification process, please make sure the correct 'Reason' is selected for students who are certified as 'No.'

Please note, the Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant operates on a different payment cycle. Institutions with eligible students will be contacted separately.

Please reference the [MiSSG Manual for Aid Administrators](#) for assistance or contact our office at 1-888-447-2687 or email mistudentaid@michigan.gov.

January 2, 2019

Institutions may begin certifying awards and requesting reimbursement on January 8, 2019 for the following terms/semesters:

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring

As a reminder, the following State aid programs are available in MiSSG:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

To be included in the 2nd Quarter payments, awards must be certified and reimbursements requested successfully by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. **February 22, 2019.**

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December 20, 2018

Earlier today, MI Student Aid sent an email to over 11,000 students who meet the basic eligibility requirements and were certified as 'Not-Enrolled' during Fall 2018-19 for one of the following awards:

- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant

The recipients of the email were provided instructions on how to update their MiSSG student record to accurately reflect the college they are currently attending (if enrolled).

Our Customer Care Center is also receiving calls and emails from students who **were** enrolled for Fall 2018-19 at the correct institution. In this case, students are being directed to follow-up with their financial aid office.

We want to make you aware of the following:

1. You may receive an increase in call volume from students who are checking on the status of their award.
2. During the certification process, please make sure the correct 'Reason' is selected for students who are certified as, 'No.'

Thank you for your continued partnership.

November 1, 2018

This message is being sent on behalf of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

Pursuant to MCL 388.1856, by **December 3** independent institutions are required to submit to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) the number of students who ever received a Pell Grant or TIP award (at your institution) and successfully earned a degree or certificate in the most recently completed academic year.

For the fiscal year 2018-19 report, the following information must be reported:

Independent Colleges:

- Number of students enrolled in the 2017-18 academic year who successfully earned a degree or certificate, that while attending your institution have EVER received:
 - TIP Award
 - Pell Grant

Please submit the information required to CEPI through the [Data Collection Survey](#).

Beginning in fiscal year 2019-20, if a postsecondary institution does not report the data necessary to CEPI by October 15, 2019 through the Student Transcript and Academic Record Repository (STARR) for the prior academic year, **Phase I TIP funds will not be awarded to student at that institution.**

October 26, 2018

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Residency Requirements Update

For Academic Year 2018-19, the student's state and date of residency (for both dependent and independent students) is used to evaluate eligibility for TIP.

However, beginning Academic Year 2019-20, TIP residency will align with all other State financial aid programs. The residency requirements are listed on page 22 of the [State Programs Procedures Manual - Overview of Operations for Financial Aid Professionals](#), and is also described below:

Determining Dependent Student Residency

The parent's state and date of residency is used to determine a dependent student's residency. The parent(s) of a dependent student must have maintained continuous Michigan residency for the previous 12 months, beginning July 1 of the preceding calendar year to be considered a Michigan resident. If the date of residency on the FAFSA is July of the preceding year and the institution verifies that the date was July 1 of that year, the institution must notify SSG of the student's eligibility.

Determining Independent Student Residency

The student's state and date of residency is used to determine an independent student's residency. An independent student must have maintained continuous Michigan residency for the previous 12 months, beginning July 1 of the preceding calendar year to be considered a Michigan resident.

Once 2019-20 TIP records are created in MiSSG, you may notice students who are ineligible due to non-Michigan resident, but may still be eligible for 2018-19.

October 23, 2018

Fall Certification/Reimbursement - Deadline, November 4, 2018

The anticipated Quarter 1 payment date is scheduled for November 5, 2018. To be included in the Quarter 1 payments, awards must be certified and reimbursements requested by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. **November 4, 2018**. Only accepted requests that are submitted prior to the payment date will be included in the Quarter 1 payments. Accepted requests that are processed after the Quarter 1 payment date will be included in the Quarter 2 payment.

- As a reminder the following State aid programs are available in MiSSG:
- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Please reference the [MiSSG Manual for Aid Administrators](#) for assistance or contact our office at 1-888-447-2687 or email mistudentaid@michigan.gov.

[2018-19 SSG Payment Schedule](#)

September 18, 2019

MCS/MTG 2017-18 Q4 Payment

The supplemental funds to cover the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS) fiscal year shortfall have been finalized. Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) will process Q4 payments for both MCS and the Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG) tomorrow, September 19. Institutions should receive these funds by early next week.

2019-20 Institutional Budgets Reminder

Budgets must be entered into MiSSG by COB on October 1.

September 14, 2018

Fall Certification/Reimbursement - Opens Monday, September 17

Institutions may begin certifying awards and requesting reimbursements for the Fall term/semester on September 17.

As a reminder the following State aid programs are available in MiSSG:

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Fostering Futures Scholarship

- MI GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Note: For the Michigan Competitive Scholarship and Michigan Tuition Grant, please work with Marion Seelman if an adjustment needs to be made to clear Ineligible Reasons. Marion can be reached at seelmanm@michigan.gov or 517-241-3106. Our office can still make changes until COB **October 12**. Students updated after October 12, will display as ineligible due to the "Ineligible Reasons Cleared After Deadline."

To be included in the 1st Quarter payments, awards must be certified and reimbursements requested by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. **November 4, 2018**.

Please reference the [MiSSG Manual for Aid Administrators](#) for assistance or contact our office at 1-888-447-2687 or email mistudentaid@michigan.gov.

[2018-19 SSG Payment Schedule](#)

September 11, 2018

2019-20 Institution Budgets Must be Updated in MiSSG by October 1

Institution budget screens for Academic Year 2019-20 must be updated by October 1. These tables will be updated with prior-year (2018-19) data. Expected in October, MiSSG will begin loading ISIRs for Academic Year 2019-20 and creating initial student awards.

To update your institution's 2019-20 budget, please follow these instructions:

1. Log into MiSSG, click on the **Michigan Competitive Scholarship** menu.
2. Click **School Profile**.
3. Change the Academic Year at the top of the screen to **Year 2019 to 2020**.
4. Click **Budget**.
5. Enter both the Tuition and Fees and Room and Board using your institution's **2018-19 budget information**.
6. Click **Save**.

For private institutions, once the MCS budget is entered, the MTG budget fields will populate automatically with the same budget information. No further action is required in the MTG school profile once MCS is updated. **If a budget is not entered by October 1, your 2017-18 budget information will be used for 2019-20 awards.**

[State Budgets for 2019-20](#)

September 4, 2018

MiSSG Update - New Programs Available

We are excited to announce, the following programs are now in MiSSG:

- Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS)
- Michigan GEAR UP Scholarship (MI GEAR UP)

MiSSG Users, with authorized access, may view and/or update (as determined by security level) FFS and MI GEAR UP student records.

Please review both the *Eligible Students Report* and *Ineligible Students Report* and clear ineligible reasons, if applicable.

The [MiSSG Manual for Aid Administrators](#) will be updated soon to include procedures for these additional programs.

Academic Year 2018-19 State Programs Procedures Manual - Overview of Operations for Financial Aid Professionals Now Available

The State Programs Procedures Manual - Overview of Operations for Financial Aid Professionals provides information on:

- Eligibility information for State aid programs.
- Overview of our data management system, MiSSG.
- MI Student Aid services and publications.

This manual is located on our Web site at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid under Student Scholarships and Grants - Forms and Documents.

Fostering Futures Scholarship Policy Update

Program Award Information

Covers up to \$3,000 per academic year, but maximum semester awards cannot exceed \$1,500.

Up to \$1,000 of the semester award may be used for tuition and fees, books and supplies.

- The tuition and fees portion is based on actual tuition and mandatory fees charged to the student.
- The books and supplies portion is based on the amount defined by the institution's Cost of Attendance (COA) and can be applied towards direct or indirect costs.

Up to \$500 of the semester award may be used for room and board.

- The room and board portion is based on the amount defined by the institution's COA and can be applied towards direct or indirect costs (on campus or off campus).

Academic Year 2018-19 Program Payment Schedule Now Available

The 2018-19 Program Payment schedule is available on our Web site at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid under Student Scholarships and Grants - Forms and Documents.

2019-20 Institution Budgets Must be Updated in MiSSG by October 1

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[State Budgets for 2019-20](#)

Spread the Word: Registration CLOSES September 14 for the 2018 MI Student Aid High School Counselor Workshop

October 2, 2018 at 9:30 A.M

*There are two ways to experience the 2018 High School Counselor Workshop, in person at one of the 29 available host sites or online from a location of your choice.

High school guidance counselors and college access professionals are invited to attend this free training about:

- Student Scholarships and Grants program updates; featuring the new Talent for Tomorrow Scholarship, the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, and the Tuition Incentive Program.
- The life-cycle of State financial aid.
- Data trends and navigating through the MiSSG portal for high school counselors and students.
- Outreach services and how MI Student Aid can assist counselors and their students.
- Live Q & A.

Live financial aid updates provided by the host site institution covering:

- Federal financial aid update.
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) demonstration.
- Unusual circumstances, special populations, verification process, and maintaining eligibility.

August 24, 2018

2018-19 Policy Update - Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)

A student can receive up to \$2,800 per academic year.

Institutions may no longer request \$2,800 for a single semester or term for a student enrolled full-time.

Maximum semester or term awards are based on enrollment; however, may not exceed the student's tuition costs.

- An award made for full-time enrollment may not exceed \$1,400 per semester or term.
- An award made for three-quarter-time enrollment may not exceed \$1,050 per semester or term.
- An award made for half-time enrollment may not exceed \$700 per semester or term.

August 13, 2018

Academic Year 2017-18

Q4 Payments: Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) and the Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)

Q4 payments for Academic Year 2017-18 were processed this morning for both TIP and CVTG. These were the final 2017-18 payments for these programs.

Q4 Payments: Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS) and Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)

For MCS and MTG, legislative funding for Academic Year 2017-18 did not match the quantity and type of student awards. Q4 payments will not be processed for MCS and MTG until the State Budget Office has transferred \$6.0 million from the MTG funds surplus to the funds deficit of MCS. This is expected to occur in September.

Academic Year 2018-19

CVTG and TIP

Some institutions are still telling students that they need to provide “Letters of Eligibility” for CVTG and TIP. Please ensure front-line staff are aware **these letters are no longer required**.

MiSSG Student Portal: Fall Transfers

Students transferring their institution with the MiSSG Student Portal should be reminded to doublecheck that they are processing the transfer for the correct academic year. Several students have recently initiated a transfer for Fall 2017-18 rather than Fall 2018-19, by mistake.

MiSSG Security Access Form Deadline Approaching

Financial aid directors must submit the [2018-19 MiSSG Aid Administrator Security Access Form](#) for the users at their institution prior to the deadline on **September 4, 2018** to renew or add user accounts at their institution. MiSSG user accounts that have not been added or renewed by the deadline will be deactivated.

Each security access form must be:

- Completed electronically by the aid director.
 - Please do not send a scanned copy of a handwritten form.
- Emailed to mistudentaid@michigan.gov from the aid director’s email address.
 - Forms sent to or from different addresses will not be accepted.

For reference, aid directors may request a copy of their institution’s 2017-18 MiSSG Aid Administrator Security Access Form by emailing mistudentaid@michigan.gov.

2018-19 Program Fact Sheets Available

Fact Sheets for SSG programs have a new look and are updated for the new academic year:

- [2018-19 Children of Veterans Tuition Grant \(CVTG\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Fostering Futures Scholarship \(FFS\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Michigan Competitive Scholarship \(MCS\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Michigan GEAR UP \(MI GEAR UP\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Michigan Tuition Grant \(MTG\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Police Officer’s and Fire Fighter’s Survivor Tuition Grant \(STG\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2018-19 Tuition Incentive Program \(TIP\) Fact Sheet](#)

July 26, 2018

Tuition Incentive Program and Children of Veterans Tuition Grant

Reimbursement requests should be submitted very soon to be included in the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) and Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) 4th Quarter payments. AY2017-18 requests will be accepted for Fall, Winter (term school only), Spring, and Summer semesters. All reimbursement requests must be **successfully submitted and processed** in MiSSG by **August 3**. Payment is scheduled for August 6. These are the final TIP and **CVTG payments for 2017-18**.

No reimbursement requests will be accepted after August 3.

July 18, 2018

Talent for Tomorrow Scholarship (formerly Michigan Talent Pledge Scholarship)

Included in the \$100 million Marshall Plan for Talent ([P.A. 227](#)) is \$20,000,000 allocated to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury) to administer the Michigan Talent Pledge Scholarship, now named Talent for Tomorrow Scholarship (TTS).

The Talent for Tomorrow Scholarship will assist low-income students with the cost of obtaining a qualifying degree or credential in a high-demand field from an approved Michigan postsecondary institution.

Program Limits

For students enrolled in an eligible program that leads to:

- A one-year qualifying degree or credential:
 - The maximum award amount is \$750 (\$375 per semester) not to exceed the Cost of Attendance (COA).
 - The maximum stipend amount is \$250, which **must** be disbursed directly to the student.
- A two-year qualifying degree or credential:
 - The maximum award amount is \$500 per year (\$250 per semester) not to exceed the COA.
 - The maximum stipend amount is \$250 per year, which **must** be disbursed directly to the student.

Student Eligibility

For students to be eligible to receive TTS, they must:

- Complete a current-year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Be between ages 16 and 45.
- Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
- Be enrolled full-time in a qualifying degree or credential program in a high-demand field at an approved Michigan community college, public university, degree-granting non-profit independent college, or private training provider.
 - A list of high-demand fields and eligible programs will be maintained by the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED).
 - High-demand fields may include:
 - Information Technology and Computer Science
 - Manufacturing
 - Healthcare
 - Business
 - Other Professional Trades
- Have income at or below 133% of the Federal poverty level.
 - As calculated by the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology.
- Be a Michigan resident.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Meet their institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
- Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.5.
- Not be in default on State or Federal student loans.

Institution Requirements

Eligible institutions must adopt a coaching model to support eligible TTS students and be approved as a Talent Guarantee in cooperation with TED.

What next?

- TTS will be available for Fall 2018; however, Treasury must wait for TED to approve institutions and identify eligible programs.
- TED will communicate with institutions about the Talent Guarantee requirements.
- TTS will be added to MiSSG in the next phase of development.
- Initial payments to institutions should be expected in early 2019 which will include retroactive Fall 2018 payments.
- Further information will be shared with you as TTS continues to manifest.

June 29, 2018

FY19 Budget Signed by Governor

On Thursday, June 28, 2018, Governor Snyder signed the FY19 budget which funds Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) programs for Academic Year 2018-19.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)

- Received increased funding of \$8M to total \$32,361,700.

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)

- Received increased funding of \$6M to total \$64,300,000.

All Other Programs

- Received amounts which allow them to remain at level funding.

New Scholarship Program: MTPS

We are excited to announce in Academic Year 2018-19, SSG will begin administering the Michigan Talent Pledge Scholarship (MTPS). MTPS will assist low-income students with the cost of obtaining a qualifying degree or credential in a high-demand field at an approved Michigan postsecondary institution. Program details will be sent as soon as they are available.

2018-19 Program Updates

All Programs

- Except for Dual Enrollment, a current-year FAFSA will be required for eligibility for any State grant or scholarship program.

Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)

- \$2,800 annual maximum award

Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS)

- \$3,000 annual maximum award

GEAR UP College Day (GUCD)

- No awards
- Program will expire at the end of AY2017-18

Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)

- \$1,000 annual maximum award

Michigan GEAR UP Scholarship (MI GEAR UP)

- \$1,000 annual maximum award

Michigan Talent Pledge Scholarship (MTPS)

- The maximum award amount for students enrolled, full-time, in an eligible:
 - One-year qualifying degree or credential program is \$750 plus a \$250 stipend.
 - Two-year qualifying degree or credential program is \$500 plus a \$250 stipend each year for two years.

Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)

- \$2,400 annual maximum award
- The institutional cap increased from \$3.5 million to \$4.2 million.
- The rule restricting students to a ten-year window of eligibility has been eliminated.
- The FAFSA deadline changed from June 30 to March 1.

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)

- The rule restricting a public university's maximum Phase I rate-per-credit to three-times the average community college's in-district rate has been eliminated.
- The institutional cap of \$8.5 million has been eliminated.
- The average community college's in-district tuition rate will be \$110 per credit hour.

MISSG and publications; including Fact Sheets, procedures manuals, and the payment schedule will be updated soon to reflect the 2018-19 changes.

If you have questions, please contact our office at mistudentaid@michigan.gov or 1-888-447-2687.